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Docket No.: SON-2563  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Koichiro Saga

Application No.: 10/501,155

Confirmation No.: 5207

Filed: July 13, 2004

Art Unit: 2812

For: SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD,  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, METHOD OF  
FABRICATION SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE, AND TREATMENT APPARATUS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Further to the three Information Disclosure Statements previously submitted, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant hereby provides for the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the three (3) additional English language documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Copies are provided. This submission is timely in that it is made prior to a first action on the merits of this application.

This will also certify that each item of information contained in this fourth Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Specifically, these documents were noted in a Supplementary European Search Report (SESR) dated April 28,

2006 in connection with the corresponding EP application. A copy of the SESR is provided for the convenience of the examiner and to show the perceived relevance of the cited documents in the view of the EP search authority. An Annex to the SESR is also provided to show apparent patent family members for the cited documents.

Please take these documents, the documents cited in the prior submissions, and the Background of the Invention. at pages 1 through 7 in the specification as filed, into account in the initial examination of this application and make all of their considerations of record.

Dated: May 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/501,155-Conf. #5207
				Filing Date	July 13, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Koichiro Saga
				Art Unit	2812
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SON-2563

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	WO 01/33613	05-10-2001	Supercritical Systems Inc.		X
	BB	WO 02/080233	02-21-2002	Kabushiki Kaisha Kobe Seiko Sho		X
	BC	WO 02/15251	10-10-2002	Tokyo Electron Limited		X
	BD					
	BE					

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>		T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Supplementary EPO Search Report mailed April 28, 2006	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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